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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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25 April 1975

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States

Dear Mr. Belin:

In last week's discussions between you and Mr. McCone, you asked for a compendium on Project ZRRIFLE.

It is attached. We consider the paper to be especially sensitive.

Faithfully yours,

E. H. Knoche

E. H. Knoche
Assistant to the Director

ZRRIFLE

The "executive action capability" that the Agency was asked to develop apparently assumed an existing cryptonym, ZRRIFLE. The four ZRRIFLE files, the only ones we have been able to locate, deal in the main with the activities of a clandestine asset in Europe, QJWIN, who was responsible for spotting and assessing individuals whom the Agency could use

According

to statements made to the Inspector General in 1967 by a senior CIA officer, who was the Chief of _____ in 1961 and later became intimately involved in the "executive action capability," he had planned to use QJWIN as part of this capability but never did. There are a few references in the files that might be construed as a connection with this activity, but they are so cryptic that, without additional information it would be difficult to tie them together. Otherwise, the files deal only with assignments for QJWIN in cable traffic and dispatches, administrative and financial records, and name traces/personality sketches.

There is no evidence in the files to refute the statement of QJWIN's case officer that he had never been used as part of the "executive action capability." It seems quite clear from the files that QJWIN was primarily involved in spotting and assessing foreigners for use by the Agency.

The first mention of the ZRRIFLE cryptonym appears in a 24 May 1961 memo from the Chief, _____ to the Cable Secretariat and states that "two copies of all traffic bearing the ZRRIFLE indicator are to be delivered in a sealed envelope directly to Chief, _____" No other distribution was to be made without his specific approval. The last paragraph states that the above was personally approved by the DDP.

The files also contain a handwritten, undated memo stating that "the purpose of Project ZRRIFLE is to spot, develop, and use agent assets for

....QJWIN is under written contract as a principal agent, with the primary task of spotting agent candidates....".

It appears that the Chief, _____ decided to conceal the "executive action capability" under the ZRRIFLE cryptonym when he was assigned responsibility for developing this activity. Further, the virtual absence of any written material on this subject suggests that activities dealing with the "executive action capability" were not intended to be committed to writing.